

SYMBOLIC RECOLLECTIONS

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original passions. But if summoned indirectly by the imagining of the impressions which originally evoked them, they may affect us as powerfully as when they first arose. We owe to imagination hope and despair—two of the strongest emotions of mankind. The one is the vision of satisfied, the other of unsatisfied impulses.

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Such are, so to speak, the dynamics of memory. But it must also be considered as a static force—not as a stream but as a store-house of recollections. These, when assorted and, so to speak, indexed by consciousness, constitute knowledge—a fund from which disbursements may be made at the call of the will. Recollections may be direct—simple repetitions of former sensory impressions—or symbolic: we may have direct recollections of St. Petersburg, presenting the place to us as we have seen it; or we may have recollections of words, or symbols, describing the city which, so to speak, construct views of it by calling up certain direct recollections (of rivers, streets, and so on) which originally had no connection with St. Petersburg, but are reassorted and recombined in the process.

Direct recollections are clearest when they are visualized, when, that is to say, the original sensory impressions repeat themselves as a definite, detailed picture. In such a case one may be able to catalogue a number of different objects

that have been presented only for a moment.
Readers of Kipling will remember Kim's endeavour to rival the jeweller's apprentice in this accomplishment. Visualization can undoubtedly be strengthened by practice. It is strongest in children and in savages : it fades away as age advances, and has been shown by investigation to be at its weakest amongst men of science.